

This has been a momentous year in the life of the Library, the first in our beautiful new building. In May 1951 the book collections from the various reading rooms and offices on the Campus, were moved to the Rutherford Library - a total of 150,000 volumes moved in 8 days. As the dust settled and the movers departed the library staff began the task of setting the new library to rights, in preparation for the Official Opening on May 15th.

This ceremony took place in the Main Reading Room with 600 guests and members of the faculty present. The special speaker on this occasion was Dr. R. C. Wallace, Principal of Queen's University, formerly President of the University of Alberta. This ceremony was followed by a 3-day "Open House" during which an estimated 5000 people were conducted over the building by members of the library staff.

STAFF

The Library during the past term has had a full time staff of 30 (of whom 16 were qualified librarians).

In July word was received of the death of Miss Helen Farquharson, formerly Chief Cataloguer. She had made a valuable contribution to the reorganization of the library during her 6 years here, and her passing is a matter of deep regret.

Mr. Bruce Peel, M.A. (Saskatchewan) B.L.S. (Toronto) joined the staff as Chief Cataloguer on June 1, 1952. The addition during the summer of 4 professional and 3 clerical assistants brought the library staff to full strength for the first time.

QUARTERS

The new quarters in the Rutherford Library have made possible a greatly expanded service. The recorded attendance is 181,417. This does not include the Education Libraries in Edmonton or Calgary, nor the Seminars or Smoking Study room of the Rutherford Library. Since it has never been possible heretofore to keep systematic attendance records, we have no way of calculating exactly the increased use made of the Library. Such figures as we have would indicate an increase of 75% to 100%.

Even more significant is the improved quality of the service in the new building. In place of crowded tables, poor ventilation and light and the continual noise and confusion of the old quarters, we can now provide ample study space in quiet surroundings, with easy access to books on open shelves for all readers, and with good study facilities in the stacks for honors and graduate students and faculty. There are facilities for displays of rare books, maps, manuscripts and art objects, a browsing area where books of general interest may be read and borrowed, a music listening room where programs of recordings are given daily for students and staff, and an Art gallery and Indian museum.

The Projection room, seating 100, and equipped with motion-picture and slide projectors has been used an average of 32 hours monthly for class instruction requiring illustration, and its use is increasing steadily. It has also been used extensively in the evenings by scholarly and technical societies and groups and during the noon-hours for free showings of documentary films by the Department of Extension.

The seminars were used regularly for lectures 90 hours weekly. They were also used extensively for moot courts, conference groups, short courses, and campus study groups.

Visitors to the library

During the year we have had a constant stream of visitors through the Library - tourists, visitors from other universities, interested citizens, parents of University students, and school children in organized groups. During the Varsity guest week-end

in February, 1600 were taken on conducted tours, and smaller groups are shown over the building constantly.

DEPARTMENTS

Orders

Work in this department has been much easier and pleasanter in the new surroundings and with the new equipment such as the electric book lift and stands for bibliographical tools. Adequate storage facilities now permit us to purchase supplies and equipment in bulk once a year.

This year's volume of work is the largest on record with 6,021 volumes ordered and with an additional 632 volumes received and acknowledged as gifts. Many of the books ordered this year were for the Calgary Branch, necessitated by the expansion of courses there.

Cataloguing

The new cataloguing quarters have enabled us to bring this department to full strength with 3 professional and 3 clerical assistants. The year saw the completion of the extra projects resulting from the consolidation of the various campus libraries in the new building. As it drew to a close plans were in the draft stage for the reclassification of the book collection according to the Library of Congress scheme - an undertaking likely to require 4 years.

During the year the department accessioned 7,979 volumes; catalogued 9,008 volumes (including 1,093 bound journals); labelled 8,086 volumes; and typed 39,512 cards.

Reference, Periodicals and Binding

This department is responsible for general reference service to students and faculty, for periodicals, maps and government documents, for inter-library loans, and for the binding of books and journals for the entire library. The Reference Reading Room and the Periodical Room are under its supervision.

From the first the use of the Reference Reading Room by students of all faculties, both for reference service and as a place to study, has been gratifyingly heavy. For the first time trained reference assistance is available in the evenings as well as throughout the day. From July 1st to March 31, 35,637 readers used this room, and 3,776 used the Periodical Room; the circulation of reference materials and current journals outside the library was 5,587; the number of reference problems dealt with 2,030.

During the year 1,218 current journal subscriptions were placed; 1,312 journals and books were bound; 262 items were borrowed on inter-library loan for staff members engaged in research, and 82 lent to other libraries. The number of theses by our own graduates added to the collection was 68.

General circulation

This department is in charge of the Main Delivery desk on the 2d floor, and of the browsing area and collections there, as well as the Main stacks and the Reserve Room.

The efficiency of this department has been immeasurably increased by the much-needed space and the labor and time-saving facilities of the Rutherford Library, which include pneumatic tubes and automatic book-conveyor. Conditions in the stacks are improved 100%. There is now room for expansion. Books are easily and quickly found and re-shelved. Study carrels on each tier provide ideal facilities for faculty and graduate students.

During the past year the circulation statistics for the Reserve Room were considerably lower than the previous year - a trend which has been observed in University libraries across Canada. This is probably due to a number of causes, including reduced registration and the greater availability of text books for purchase. In our own case it has been counter-balanced by an increase in circulation from the stacks, indicating that the students are doing more independent reading as opposed to the prescribed reading of the Reserve Room.

During the year circulation from the Reserve Room was 27,572; from the main stacks and browsing area 22,747 - a total of 51,605. Loans to extramural students, 942. Attendance from July 1st to the end of March in the Reserve Reading Room was 37,371; in the Browsing area 7,204. The number of stack users was 5,215.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

Medical reading room

As reorganized in the new building, this reading room serves the faculties of Medicine and Dentistry, and the Schools of Nursing and Pharmacy. The attendance and use of books has increased greatly. Most of the books and journals are now fully accessible to readers on open shelves so that we have no statistics of their use in the library. The overnight use of Reserve books and materials from the stack has increased 43%. Total recorded circulation was 20,755 including 2986 items loaned to city and rural doctors. Current journal subscriptions number 360 (Medical 284, Dental 49, Nursing 12, Pharmacy 15). Attendance from September 1st to March 31st was 12,709 - an increase of 56% for the daytime and 155% for the evenings.

Applied Science Reading Room

Since the move to the Rutherford Library this reading room has coordinated the resources and services of the former Agriculture, Chemistry and Mining Reading rooms. In addition the engineering books and journals formerly housed in and circulated from the main stacks are now housed here, providing for the first time a specialized reference service for this faculty, which has been much used and appreciated.

Circulation statistics for this room give no indication of the use of the books in the library, since almost all the books and journals are on open shelves. Total circulation for use outside the library from July 1st to March 31st, was 6,460. Attendance for the same period was 22,261, an increase of 80% over the previous year's attendance in the Agriculture, Mining, and Chemistry reading rooms.

Law Reading Room

With the establishment of the Law collection in the Weir Memorial reading room it has been possible for the first time to provide full reference service. Much thought and care have gone into the building-up of this collection during the past 6 years, and in the spacious new quarters and with a qualified law librarian in charge we hope to make it one of the outstanding law libraries in Western Canada.

All the books in the reading room and in the adjoining 2-tier law stacks are freely accessible to students, so no circulation figures are available except for overnight use, 2,448 volumes. Attendance in the library from September 1st to March 31st, was 29,025. As the total registration of students in Law was 111, this figure gives some idea of the heavy use made of this reading room.

Education Library

This is the one branch library on the Edmonton campus which is not housed in the Rutherford Library. It is situated in the Education Building at the South end

of the Campus. Lack of space for books and readers in the reading room and the separation from it of the library study room on the floor above are making it increasingly difficult to provide good library service for Education students and staff.

During the year the librarian in charge, with three full-time assistants circulated 47,109 volumes; 317 were mailed out to extramural students. It is not possible to keep attendance figures as the study room is not supervised.

Calgary Branch

The expansion of the Calgary branch has resulted for the library in an increase in space, equipment, books and staff. The opening of new teaching departments and the entrance of new groups into the student body have changed the type of service required and the library from now on will cease to be a specialized one, and will reflect the fields of the faculties concerned - Arts, Science and Education.

Physical changes include the addition of another reading room, giving a total seating capacity of 140, an office for the librarian, new stacks, fluorescent lighting and other equipment. A large number of new books were purchased including texts and reading for the new courses and an excellent basic reference collection to meet the requirements of a junior college library.

During the year the Branch librarian with one clerical and 2 student assistants circulated 14,638 books and journals. As this is an open-shelf library, where students have direct access to the books, these figures give no indication of the heavy use made of the books in the library. Attendance for the year was 28,075.

STOCK OF BOOKS

During the year 7,979 volumes were added to the collection and 309 withdrawn, giving us a total of 119,310 accessioned volumes in the Main Library. In addition there are 15,144 in the Calgary Branch, and some 6000 as yet unaccessioned in the Education library, Edmonton, making a total book stock of approximately 140,454 volumes at March 31, 1952.

RADIO TALKS

During the winter 17 book talks were given by members of the University Library staff in the series "Books at Random" presented over CKUA in cooperation with the Extension Library. This was the 7th and last season for this series.

GIFTS

We are grateful for the following gifts to the Library:

- From Mrs. Irene Consett, Hollywood, California, a gift of \$1000 for Ukrainian language and literature;
- from Mrs. J. H. Woods, Calgary, the sum of \$5000 formerly to be invested now to be spent for additions to the Woods Collection;
- from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta \$500 for the purchase of medical books;
- from the Canadian Cancer Society \$225 for the purchase of books on cancer;
- from the Women's Auxiliary, University of Alberta Hospital \$50 for a set of Dickens;
- from the University Women's Club \$25 for the purchase of books;
- from Dr. L. O. Beauchemin, Calgary, \$25 for the purchase of French books for Calgary Branch;
- from the French Embassy, Ottawa, books to the value of 50,000 francs for the Calgary Branch;

from the Edmonton Journal, the files of the Edmonton Bulletin;
from Mr. Hugh Wallace, Toronto, the collected papers of his father the late
J. N. Wallace, dealing with early topographical conditions in Alberta;
from Dr. Heber Jamieson, Books and journals on medicine and medical history
in Alberta;
from Mrs. E. W. Sheldon, books from the late Professor Sheldon's library;
from Mrs. Robert Newton, a collection of books on art;
from Mrs. J. J. Anderson, a portrait of the Hon. Frank Oliver;
from Mrs. E. J. Cody, Toronto, Whitaker's Almanac, 1882-1951;
from Mrs. H. H. Sharples, Calgary, a rare Chinese book and a Chinese jade amulet,
*
and from numerous other sources gifts of books, manuscripts, and pictures, all of
which have been duly acknowledged.

* from the Graduating Class of '51 an oil painting by Mr. J. B. Taylor for the
Music Listening Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Sherlock,
Librarian.

